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Democracy in Paris.

Inevitably the student of history, contemplating the formal opening of the momentous Conference of Paris yesterday, compares this great gathering with the Congress of Vienna, which began 105 years ago. The preliminary discussions among the great Powers showed many interesting similarities; THE SUN has directed attention to some of these. But between the two assemblies there is a fundamental and potent difference that must not be ignored.

At Vienna there met the sovereigns and the plenipotentiaries of the sovereigns of Europe. Democracy was scarcely recognized as a force to be considered, save as Great Britain's statesmen represented it. Dynasties and dynastic ambitions ruled generally the dispositions and ambitions of the statesmen who composed that great council.

But Paris presents a different spectacle. There democracy, wearing in some cases the form of monarchy, but actually registering the will of free peoples, has set out to decide the future of the world. The word of the premier outweighs the dictum of him who wears the crown; the statesmen look not to the royal palace for approval and support, but to the parliamentary bodies to which they must ultimately render their reports. Not from the courtiers do they seek their guidance and their inspiration, but from the commons; the final reckoning must be paid in the forum of popular debate, and not in the closet of a king.

In no other way could the progress democratic institutions have made in a century be more vividly displayed than by such a gathering as that at Paris which the world watches with hope and expectancy. The passing of authority from the few to the many has been accomplished with astonishing celerity. The power of the people has been translated throughout the world into an accomplished fact, and its fruits are seen now in a congress whose members, charged with the gravest of duties, owe their authority to the free acts of free men, and not to the politic manœuvres of irresponsible rulers.

Ukrainians Fight Bolshevism.

The convention in this city of representatives from the centres of Ukrainian population in the United States and Canada outlined for itself the broad programme of securing the stability of the new Ukrainian State by fighting Bolshevism. In this respect Ukraine is confronted with much the same problem as Poland, the leaders in both lands believing that they must defeat the agencies of the Trotzky rule at Moscow before they can gain for the new states the recognition they desire.

The attempts at the formation of a Ukrainian state have been to a great extent disappointing to the Ukrainians themselves. The country which these people hold to be their own was one of the most productive of Europe. The fertile black earth region of the south was the granary of Russia; the uplands of the north rich in forest and mineral resources. The peasants were as a class land owners and commonly considered the most advanced in the Russian Empire, a people, in fact, who might have been reasonably expected to be genuinely desirous of the independent government which their leaders had long held up before them as the goal of their national ambition.

That the country was practically taken from them by the Central Powers through the terms of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, and that it was being built up into a German vassal state, were the results of military conditions more than of desire of a majority of the people. The end of German rule was welcomed by all Ukrainians except the few who were agents of the Central Powers and had become the heads of a Government directed and controlled by Berlin. But it left in its train a condition of disorder and disorganization which has been fostered by Bolshevism and has grown into the present peril to the new state.

The people of Ukrainian descent in America believe that they are in better position than those of their race remaining in Ukraine to understand the menace in the growth of Bolshevism. The Ukrainians were well represented in the armies of the United States and Canada in the war. Their attitude toward Bolshevism is largely the American attitude. In its spread to Ukraine they fear the repetition of the same condition in that country as exists in Russia; and they believe that if they can halt Bolshevism at their northern boundary they will erect a barrier to its extension westward. In this effort they are asking the help of the Allied nations, and they are offering as an earnest of their own intention a concerted action to defeat the Bolshevist agencies that have been at work among the Ukrainians in America and Europe.

America's Financial Counsellors.

By selecting THOMAS W. LAMONT and ALBERT STRAUSS as the financial advisers of the American peace commissioners, the Treasury Department has assured the country that in this supremely important field the nation will have the full benefit of intelligent and informed patriotic thought, guided by practical experience of a kind few men have enjoyed.

Mr. LAMONT's intimate knowledge of the processes by which the war was financed by the Allies previous to the entrance of the United States as a belligerent is derived from the highly important services he performed from 1914 to 1917. In that period his mind guided the commercial development of this country, then a neutral, in response to the requirements of the Allies for munitions and foodstuffs. The organization built up under his direction functioned with wonderful precision under most difficult circumstances, and the intricate financial operations involved were carried to success with the least possible disturbance of private and public credit.

In the course of this enterprise, the magnitude of which astonished even those accustomed to great transactions, the details were carried out with a comprehension of the numerous factors involved which attested Mr. LAMONT's capacity not only to manage the domestic situation, but to coordinate the activities stimulated or established here with the necessities of the foreign financial situation. That capacity has been further demonstrated in his services to the United States since we entered the war.

Mr. STRAUSS's intimate familiarity with foreign exchange and international finance was acquired and recognized generally here and abroad before he took office in the War Trade Board. As a member of that board and later as vice-governor of the Federal Reserve Board, he has been a potent factor during the period in which this country has raised four great loans without upsetting the markets and without endangering the stability of our financial system. It must be borne in mind that in these transactions it was always necessary to consider not only the condition existing here, but also the effect of large Government borrowings on the delicately adjusted structure of international credit, gravely burdened by the effects of three years of unprecedented destruction of goods, materials and human life.

In assessing and collecting damages from Germany and her partners in the war there must be a study of the future as well as of the past. The terms of indemnification must be adjusted to the fair claims of the sufferers, and to the ability of the culprits to pay. The mere fixing of a sum of money to cover damages will not suffice; the debtor must be able to pay. Thus the advice of men acquainted with the history and prospects of the interested nations, and the world in general, must be obtained. Such men the United States has in Mr. LAMONT and Mr. STRAUSS, whose opinions are based on world knowledge.

Milk Prices and the Remedy.

The settlement of the milk fight is along expected lines. The dairymen are to have the price they demanded, $4.01 for a hundred pounds of milk this month, with reasonable reductions in February and March. For the present the consumer will pay 16 cents a quart, which is about twice as much as the dairyman receives.

The farmers had the whip hand because they were pretty well organized. Again, they had some moral weapons. Their assertions in regard to the high prices they are obliged to pay for feed and labor are undeniable. The New York dairyman is not always a general farmer. This great dairy State is also a great hay State, but the cow nowadays does not live by grass alone. Modern dairying calls for the use of a great amount of grain, and this is not a grain State. It does not raise one-tenth as much wheat as Kansas, or one-fourth as much oats as Iowa, or one-fifteenth as much corn as Illinois.

When the Government guaranteed $2.26 a bushel for wheat, an act which affected all grain and almost every kind of food, the New York farmer dairyman was hurt rather than helped. To-day to get grain for his herd he pays to the farmers of the West about twice the normal price. At the same time the artificial price of wheat is sending up all his living expenses and keeping the wages of his help far higher than they would be if his employees had only normal prices to pay for clothing and other necessities.

Milk is high, and the investigators of the recent quarrel must necessarily have come to the conclusion that milk will remain at an abnormal price until the Government breaks the war props of wheat and relieves the national food situation by letting the public have grains at prices fixed by the law of supply and demand. This can be done honestly by paying to the wheat farmer the $2.26 a bushel that was guaranteed him and putting the wheat in the open market "at the market."

Such a course would bring down to living prices not only bread and butter and milk, but, by all the laws of economy, everything else that man eats and wears.

Making Desert Travel Safe.

Many fascinating, many dreadful stories have been told of the dangers, the mysteries, the awfulness of the deserts of Mojave, the Colorado, Death Valley. More nearly than any one else, so far as we have had opportunity to judge, GEORGE W. PARSONS has written of these vast, lonely, silent stretches in a manner to present what seems a lifelike—or deathlike—picture; one which brings a realizing sense of their savage beauties, for beauties they have, their appalling ugliness, their lethal enticements, for inexplicably these deserts do entice men to their embrace.

Mr. PARSONS is a California mining man, and in 1901 he was chairman of the committee on mines of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He foresaw that the building of a railroad from Salt Lake City into southern California, and other transportation betterments which would make the fringes of the deserts more accessible, would bring many miners into the region, for already the mountains thereabout were yielding profitably copper, tin, silver and gold.

With the purpose of providing reliable information for the use of the Chamber of Commerce as to mining prospects in the desert regions Mr. PARSONS organized an exploring party which seems to have had State aid, or at least State authority, and made his investigation and report. But incidents of his rides of one thousand miles over the deserts—the distance surprises until one learns that as they spread over parts of California, Nevada and Arizona these deserts are nearly equal in territorial extent to the State of New York—gave birth to a new purpose, to provide the deserts with sign posts indicating the locations of water holes, springs and wells, to set up some sort of instrumentality to keep those precious stores of water clean and supplied with appliances for securing and using the water for man and beast. It took him fifteen years fully to accomplish his purpose, with the aid first of friends and sympathetic civic bodies, then of the State, and finally of Congress, which took over the whole work as an interstate project. The work is now in the capable hands of GEORGE OTIS SMITH, Director of the Federal Geological Survey.

Mr. PARSONS recently printed for private circulation the story of this work, a fascinating story, indeed, in which, while adhering closely most of the time to his main subject, making the desert safe for travellers, he has by casual mention of scenes and incidents, brief narratives of desert tradition and tragedy, unconsciously, it may be, supplied much picturesque and dramatic information.

Those who have no other knowledge of the desert than that gained by casual glances out of a sleeping or dining car window probably wonder why any one ever crosses any part of it in any other way. An answer to that would involve a large consideration of human nature. Why does one man whom Mr. PARSONS encountered irrigate a little patch of the desert's edge by methods used on the Nile for thousands of years and farm thereon? He drags his products to the nearest mining camp, sells them for a satisfactory profit, no doubt, and then returns to—the desert. No companionship nor entertainment such even as the mining camp would offer; no sound by day or night except the howling of coyotes; no news, no mail, no neighborly gossip. Why?

The fact is that white Americans for three-quarters of a century have been crossing those deserts or arms of them, and Spaniards for a century before that, and Apaches for centuries before the Spaniards. On one side are the fertile lands of southern California, where were fat herds and wine giving vineyards from the days of the earliest Spanish settlements; on the other side mountains where copper, silver and gold have been extracted by rude processes for as great a length of time. But why did the herders cross to the mines, the miners to the grazing lands? Why do early morning ferryboats carry Manhattanites to work in New Jersey and Jerseyites to work in Manhattan?

Mr. PARSONS found that the desert was not trackless: miners were going from camp to camp, adventure seekers whither their wanton wishes carried them; prospectors for gold were seeking hills beyond hills, mountains beyond mountains, short cutting over the desert; home seekers were moving restlessly, ever hoping for better land and searching for it through some desert crossing. Thousands of these, including many of the early army of white emigrants, lost their way or miscalculated the quantity of water they must carry and perished of thirst. It was finding human skeletons—sixty were found in one place, only a little way from cool water—finding in some instances that those living nearest to springs allowed them to become foul, that determined Mr. PARSONS to undertake the work which took him so many years of persistent effort to accomplish.

In reading this fascinating story you are frequently impressed by the great distances which must be covered for purposes which for most people are casual daily incidents. Thus, "Eighty miles for a bath would seem to proclaim a dire necessity," he writes. "In my nosing about the desert I had discovered a pretty oasis with artesian water of 72 degrees Fahrenheit, in a circular basin 30 feet in diameter, 10 feet deep. The professor [a member of his staff] was profoundly impressed, and I thought I could stand another application, although desert dirt is very clean, so the trip was made with great profit to all."

Again: on the oasis he found "several bright, interesting halfbreed Indian children eagerly wanting to attend school, but entirely unable to do so as the seventy-two mile trip was prohibitive." Mail had to be sent out into civilization, so, "a fine fellow from the University Club of New York city who would not be denied to desert experience joined me." After a "long saddle trip" they delivered the letters into the hands of some desert travellers "to be mailed by them at Dagget, Cal., 110 miles distance over the desert, where the mercury rises to 130 or more in the shade, and no shade."

In some places the illimitable blue of the ocean is bordered by black and foul swamps, and so the ultimate white sands of the desert where there is neither animal nor vegetable life are bordered by tangles of mesquite and cactus. The writer tells of these bordering growths,

> "The Spanish dagger, sharp pointed and tall,
> And last the cholla to outstick them all."

And the cholla (pronounced choya) lives and kills up to the reputation an Arizona bard gave to it. But at last the desert traveller comes to the region forsaken even by lizards, where "the entire surface of the country for miles was covered with saline deposits mixed with nitre and borax. One drives through a substance almost snow white."

Mr. PARSONS refers again and again to the health giving quality of the desert air and finally sums up his impressions: "A wonderful health giving and restoring, lung curing and all ailment healing atmosphere is this desert air, and it seems that no ill that flesh is heir to could exist under its benign influence."

There are many rivers thereabout. The snow on the mountains melts there as elsewhere, the canyons shoot some of the rushing torrents down to the desert. These rivers sinking in the deserts are larger at their sources than at their "terminal points," but much water is there, and in unexpected places coolly comes to the surface. Some one may devise a way to raise enough of that abundant underground store to create an oasis large enough for a two thousand room hotel and a half dozen golf courses, and then there will be a health resort in a region where, as Mr. PARSONS says, "people don't die; they dry up and blow away."

The Senate amended the bill to provide for the fourteenth census by striking out the provision which gave to the Director of the Census the determination of the number and form of inquiries relating to population, and specified in another amendment just what the number and form of those questions shall be. They are few and sensible; therefore fewer citizens will be driven into hopeless insanity because their family records fail to refresh their memories as to the preferences of their mother-in-law's uncle's cousins in the matter of cures for vapors or their own childhood favorite pastimes, whether hide and seek or mumble the peg.

Under the alphabetical arrangement by which the delegates were seated in the conference room, the Americans were placed at the head of the table, on the right hand of Premier CLEMENCEAU. The other commissioners were ranged about the big horseshoe table in alphabetical order.—*Newspaper report from Paris.*

Suppose the delegates from this country had been classified as from the United States of America!

Safe deposit vaults may now be utilized to shelter beverages more precious than money.

PARCEL POST INSURANCE.

Along With the Check the Post Office Department Sends a Warning.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Not having overmuch to do in the hospital, except recover in spite of the combined efforts of doctors and nurses, I wish to give a warning to any one who in future may receive indemnity for an insured parcel lost in transit.

This reminder of the fact that "the greatest efforts of genius are unavailing against the unconscious machinations of stupidity" comes in the seductive form of a check with a warning inscribed upon it to the effect that the greatest care must be taken in its indorsement.

One scans this ill concealed threat with trepidation and wonders whether it would not be better first to consult one's family lawyer, or even frame the check.

It is apparent that the department hopes it may yet be spared the necessity of cashing that check. Some unforeseen accident may intervene. For instance, one's name is "Smith"—good old English name; one has written it many times, yet, with that haunting fear of making a mistake—how could any one make a mistake with "Smith"?—how the hand trembles, or some one jostles one's elbow and lo! it almost resembles "Smitt"! And after all these weary months of watchful waiting the department may refuse to recognize the signature, which it never saw before.

NEW YORK, January 18. M. D. V.

The February *Munsey's* has an article by Secretary Daniels on "Our Navy After the War." Frederic Austin Ogg discusses "A League of Nations—Its Problems and Possibilities." Brander Matthews tells "What the Germans Have Lost," and some fine reproductions of paintings depicting the Hohenzollerns in their glory lend emphasis to their disaster. A good illustrated feature is "Old English Roads and New Associations," the text by Ernest C. Pulbrook. In "How Inventions Are Made," Fred C. Kelly has an article of interest to every Yankee. "Women in Warfare" is a historical article by Richard Le Gallienne. The fiction pages contain the second instalment of Sax Rohmer's thrilling mystery, "The Golden Scorpion," the beginning of "The Wolf of Kahlotus," by Maryland Allen, and short stories by Emma A. Opper, Louise Kennedy Mabie, R. N. Wall and Armstrong Livingston.

"CONCURRENT" PROHIBITION

A Contention That an Amending Amendment Is Now Necessary.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with interest the editorial in THE SUN on the subject of the prohibition amendment, and in particular the analysis of the second section, providing for "concurrent power" of national and State Legislatures to enforce the measure.

Your comparison with the concurrent power of the two houses of Congress in national legislation and of the similar divided authority of State Legislatures is a proper analogy, and points out the scope and application of this clause of the amendment.

The plan of two separate legislative houses with concurrent power in legislation exists in order that one house may act as a check upon the other to prevent the enactment of hasty or improper legislation. For this reason, legislation enacted by one house fails unless the other house concurs by the enactment of an identical measure. Note that this concurrence is not indicated by a mere approval of the measure passed by the other house, but by the passage of a separate though identical measure.

Accordingly it seems obvious that the clause in question was placed in the amendment for the same reason, that is, that this legislation should fail in any State which should not accept it by the passage of concurrent legislation. No other meaning is possible, and it follows, as you suggest, that the lack of concurrence between the nation and any State would nullify the principle of the amendment, so far as that particular State was concerned. In this condition, of course, the State law would continue to apply.

Probably it never will be known who was the clever lawyer who inserted this "joker" in the amendment, but no doubt there has been much merriment over it, and its presence undoubtedly explains the speed with which the amendment has been ratified, as every lawyer must recognize its weakness, and there are many of them in the various State Legislatures.

The constitutional lawyers whom you quote as stating that a second amendment would be necessary in order to make this one effective are undoubtedly correct, but the obtaining of an "amending amendment" probably would be quite another story.

Somebody appears to have sold the Prohibitionists a "gold brick."

W. L. DUDLEY.

NEW YORK, January 18.

GOVERNMENT OPERATION.

Results of Public Ownership in This Country and Europe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The State Conference of Mayors, under the leadership of its secretary, W. P. Capes, formerly of the Garfield coal administration and active in other organizations, is about to introduce at Albany a scheme for the socialization of utility property in the municipalities of New York State. The biggest single issue which the American people confront today is whether or no we want to conduct industry, that is, conduct the business of furnishing food, clothing, shelter, heat, light, transportation, &c., for the American people in the way we conduct the Post Office, the War Risk business, or anything else the Government does, or in the way private industry builds a bridge, a block, a railroad, operates a factory, a farm or a store.

Which do we like best, the way the Government conducts business or the way private industry does it?

Of course the Government can run the railroads with losses mounting into the millions each month and tax all of us to make up the deficits, but if the Government conducted all business there would be no one to tax and it would soon eat up all the surplus capital created in the past.

No intelligent man enjoys the way governments conduct any business. In Europe they have already bankrupted most of the socialistic railways, the telegraph and telephone systems, and the cities have piled up enormous debts through the socialization of utility plants and the vast indirect losses which have resulted from operation.

The United States census shows us that in the 1,562 municipally owned electric lighting plants the cost for producing electric current averages 3.15 cents a kilowatt hour, while in the 3,659 privately owned plants the cost is only 1.96 cents. This difference represents the greater economy of private operation. Government ownership the world over is characterized by wastefulness, inefficiency, politicalization and a non-progressive spirit.

The history of municipal ownership in this country is a record of poor management, generally large deficits and too often political scandals. We have the record of some 250 electric and gas plants which have either plunged into bankruptcy completely or have saved the municipalities large sums by shutting down and buying service from a private company. Not even 6 per cent. of all the socialized plants in this country have been able to make a success.

Is it wise for the citizens of New York State to plunge into a policy of socialization of private industry which history shows has nearly always proved a failure?

Public ownership is a part of the worldwide scheme of socialism. It is socially wrong, economically it has been a failure, and to apply it generally would be a political calamity.

F. G. R. GORDON.

HAVERHILL, Mass., January 18.

Try Buying War Savings Stamps.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It occurred to me on completing the payments on my Fourth Liberty Loan bonds that it might be a good plan to follow out the same idea applied to savings banks.

When the obligation to purchase the bonds on the weekly payment plan was incurred it gave me a sense of responsibility which I was anxious to work off. The coupon book with its blank pages spurred me on. I now feel lost without the little books waiting to be filled up.

Could not the same plan be followed by the savings banks? Instead of paying money on a passbook entry, why not buy stamps which could be pasted on a card? This would furnish the incentive to save and would undoubtedly mean good increases in deposits.

NEW YORK, January 18. F. W. L.

Cheers.

We cheered our lads, our heart deep wishes voicing,
When they sailed forth across the bitter foam;
And now with what a jubilant rejoicing
We cheer them—cheer them home!

CLINTON SCOLLARD.

POEMS WORTH READING.

A Garden on the Bosporus.

I know a garden where the nightingale
Sings through the twilight to the yellow rose;
Where daphne on the dusk faint fragrance blows;
And slim magnolia, languerous and pale,
Bends like a wraith above the crimson, frail,
Wide eyed anemone; where lizards doze
Within the drowsy lilies' leafy close;
And amorous ringdoves through the myrtles wail.

A carven, time worn marble balustrade
Leans o'er the reed fringed river's rippling tide,
And from its ivied peace, a white veiled maid
Watches gay barges down the current glide—
Then, wistful with the grief of love unknown,
Back through the garden's lure she walks alone.

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

Fairy Gold.

I am bereft of fairy gold;
The umber and the ermine now
Mine eyes behold on field and bough,
And dawn and eve are ashen stoled.

How shall I be at heart consoled
For all this dolor, all this pain?
Will the fond rapture come again?
I am bereft of fairy gold!

I am bereft of fairy gold;
But hark! a voice behind the hill
Sounds like a portent through the shrill
Clamor of storm winds keen and cold;

The low sweet voice of April, old
As Eden, fraught with ecstasy;
And I forget, in what shall be,
I am bereft of fairy gold!

CLINTON SCOLLARD.

Canadian Bred.

The wild geese stringing through the sky
Are south away.
Their white breasts glitter as they fly,
The lake is gray.
So still, so lone, the gunner never heeds
The rustle, rustle of the reeds.

There they find peace to have their own wild ways
In that still lake.
Only the moonrise or the wind betrays
The way they take.
Through the dead reeds, the northern divers' lair,
Rippling the pools or over leagues of air.

CURRITUCK, Va., January 15. G. R. P.

There Will Be No Place Like Home.

When Demon Rum is banished
Men will not care to roam.
Their wish to wander vanished,
They then will stick to home.

Their wives may cease contriving
Attractive schemes to hold;
Once at the door arriving
They will not leave the fold.

For in a bone dry nation
The home is sweet to view;
There is in all creation
No other place to brew.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

Something Fresh.

Though we are told to pinch and save
And make the old things do,
Thank goodness that despite all this
We'll get a Year that's New.

The Old Oyster Bay.

I miss the good old oyster bay
Where on a spindle stool
I perched, and ate a dozen raw,
Plump and sweet, fresh and cool.

The counter brown in front of me
Was polished till it shone,
And in the centre blocks of ice
I called the "oyster throne."

Here and there in neat array
Were all the condiments:
Catsup, vinegar, pepper sauce,
Alluring garnishments.

Cape Cods were on the bill of fare,
Fat Blue Points from the snore,
And "deep shells" every day or so,
"Just in from Baltimore."

How dextrously the "shucker chap"
His art did consecrate
To free the luscious food within,
Then place it on your plate.

Each oyster handled with such care,
It might have been a gem
From out South Afric's richest mine,
For kingly diadem.

And when he set them deftly down,
That dozen of the raw,
He leaned his head and softly said:
"I s'pose a little slaw."

Those were the happy days of yore,
Ah! let my mem'ry ride—
We dine upon horse radish now
With oysters on the side.

JOHN B. FOSTER.

First Aid.

When clouds above the city roofs
Their leaden curtains draw,
And Boreas nips unwary ears
And leaves them red and raw,
Soft as the down of sleep that falls
When all the world is dark,
The snowflakes fold the leafless boughs
And bushes in the park.

They cover up the scars that gash
The breast of earth, behold!
Where winter swung his glittering blade
Of keen edged frost and cold,
And bind the stumps of fallen trees,
And broken limbs that trail
Where elm and pine embattled stood
All night before the gale.

MINNA IRVING.

Proceedings of a Peace Conference.

Bow,
Chow,
How?

At the Fountain Bar.

In good old days—soon gone, alas!—
Quoth Jack, "Your poison name."
And Bill allowed, "I'll take a glass
Of—oh, I'll take the same."

When in the sere, the dusty days
Now close upon our heels,
They meet where soda fountain plays
Its sputtering appeals;

And there with quip and jest and game,
With merry song and dance,
Will Jack ask Bill to have the same?
Oh, Boy, there's not a chance!

JAY AGG.

Blizzard in the Country.

Sifting, sheeting, lifting, fleeting,
Drives the fury of the snow,
Swirling, flying, whirling, dying,
Tossed in madness to and fro.

(Pigmy drifts upon the sashes,
Molehill mountains by the door,
Tiny scallops, fairy splashes,
Sprayed upon the kitchen floor.)

Chill and moaning, shrill and groaning,
Rattling wind through clacking trees,
Grumbling, growling, mumbling, howling,
Now declining to a wheeze.

(Hear it mutter through the shutter,
Slide across the window pane!
Now 'tis tapping, drumming, rapping
Like a blind man's groping cane.)

Sifting, sheeting, lifting, fleeting,
Stifling, smother, wind and snow;
Swirling, flying, whirling, dying,
Tossed in madness to and fro.

MARTHA B. THOMAS.

A VILLAGE OF DREAMS.

Out There the Whittlers Whittle in Front of the General Store.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is a green hill not far away—say seventy miles. At its foot is a silvery stream with some big bass ready for the lure any morning you care to get up early enough. On the banks of this Musconetcong (River, by courtesy) nestles Bloomsbury, N. J., quite content to stay as it was when I was a boy forty years ago. There's the general store with the whittlers busy as of yore; and the two churches whose rival spires talk religion to the sleepy town every Sunday morn; and the long maple arched streets lined on either side with white frames and green blinds, and the Sewing Circle and Ladies' Aid, Odd Fellows and Masons to supply society notes to the county weekly.

Two railroads bring the city boarder in the good old summer time, when the trip to the station is the leading event of the afternoon. Up in the hills there's a reservoir of spring water for the bathtubs of the more advanced thinkers, and the poles are up waiting for the wires that will relegate the oil street lamps to ancient history. But despite these concessions to modernity Bloomsbury is an Eden town to New York's T. B. M.—a haven of alluring peace to jazzed nerves and frayed dispositions.

But what's the use? It will be a long four months before the arbutus will call me up to climb that green hill, and in the meantime I can only pass my anticipations on to "Another Lost Man," who can easily find himself at Bloomsbury, N. J., if he'll take a day off when springtime calls.

R. T.

NEW YORK, January 18.

MILK COMPLICATIONS.

All Is Not Easy for the Middlemen Who Serve the Fluid.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The interesting and very fair editorial article in THE SUN of January 10 raises one question on which it is desirable that the public should have information on the milk controversy.

The milk business in New York has had a unique feature not generally understood. The milk dealer, instead of buying what the ordinary purchaser buys, namely, what he wants for his customers, agrees with the farmer to purchase all the milk which the farmer produces for a given period. This arrangement is necessary because milk is a highly perishable commodity and any other basis would result in waste.

On this principle, for years past, milk distributers have fixed prices to their producers, at which they agreed to buy all the milk produced. The old custom continues, but now the Dairymen's League, instead of the dealer, proposes to fix the price. The dealer, in years past, in fixing the price to the producer naturally considered market conditions and supply and demand. The dealer wanted to sell as much as possible of his milk to his customers and to have little left over, which he had to make into by-products such as butter. In winter months these by-products invariably meant a loss owing to the high price of the milk.

The league, in fixing the January price of $4.01 a hundredweight for milk, disregarded utterly the law of supply and demand, or any other consideration than the alleged cost of producing milk ascertained by a theoretical formula. The price named was substantially the same as in December. There is far more milk produced in January than in December.

The effect of the price fixed by the Dairymen's League on the dealer would be therefore twofold: First, to require the distributer to keep up the December high prices, without giving the consumer the benefit of a lower price, which the increased supply of milk would justify; second, inasmuch as the consuming public would not at December prices consume this increased flow of January milk, the distributer would have milk on his hands left over which would have to be made into butter at a great loss.

The distributers felt that this price fixed by the farmers, disregarding market conditions and putting the burden of loss from this arbitrary price upon the distributers, was unjust to the distributer and to the consumer. For example, the farmers' asking price would mean a loss to the distributers on every hundred pounds of milk they bought and could not sell and turned into butter at $1.50. These amounts would increase the January losses into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Another aspect needs consideration. The condensed milk companies in the New York milk belt are asked to pay the same price for milk as the city distributers. These condensed milk companies compete with companies buying their milk in other parts of the country. In Michigan, for example, the current price for 3 per cent. milk in January is $3.34. The Dairymen's League's demand here is 67 cents a hundredweight higher. The condensers declare that they cannot pay such prices under competitive conditions and compete with their more favored competitors and will be obliged to keep their plants closed as long as these artificially high prices continue.

The dealers and condensers who refuse to carry their losses created by the price fixing methods of the Dairymen's League are pictured in some rather crude cartoons, which the League is now circulating, as endeavoring to rule or ruin. It is for the sober minded people to determine who is endeavoring to rule or ruin. The statement is not true so far as the distributers or condensers are concerned.

The milk distributers are endeavoring to conduct their business on business principles. Although they have been losing money in November and December, they have reduced the price to the city consumer to the extent of the reduction in price represented by the dealer's price to the farmer.

They have given the consumer the benefit of the market value of milk. They are furnishing the city with its milk at great difficulty and doubtless at considerable additional expense. The principle on which they act is not one of hostility to the organization of the dairy farmers, whose organization they are not endeavoring to destroy.

Their position is that unreasoning and arbitrary demands and attempts at blackjacking the law of supply and demand cannot do anything but injury to all concerned.

They hope that ultimately the conservative and intelligent farmer will appreciate the situation and that the three interests—the consumer, producer and distributer—can act in harmony and the price of milk in New York be based on a fair consideration of all the factors involved.

GEORGE W. ALGER,
Counsel, New York Milk Conference Board.

NEW YORK, January 18.

The Sun Calendar

THE WEATHER.

For eastern New York, fair in south, cloudy in north portion to-day; somewhat lower temperature; fair to-morrow; fresh west winds.

For New Jersey, fair to-day and to-morrow; moderate temperature; fresh westerly winds.

For northern New England, cloudy and colder to-day; probably rain or snow in eastern Maine; fair to-morrow; fresh northwest winds.

For southern New England, fair and somewhat colder to-day; fair to-morrow; fresh northwest winds.

For western New York, cloudy and somewhat lower temperature to-day; fair to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The storm that was central over eastern Tennessee Friday night moved rapidly northeastward and Saturday night its centre was some distance south of Cape Cod. It will continue to move in a northeasterly course. Another storm is over British Columbia moving eastward. There were rains in the last twenty-four hours in the Atlantic and east Gulf States, Tennessee and in the Pacific States, except southern California. There were snow flurries in the upper lake region. The weather remains unseasonably warm in all parts of the country. The indications are that the weather will be generally fair Sunday and Monday in the States east of the Mississippi River, although with considerable cloudiness in the region of the great lakes. The temperature will be somewhat lower Sunday in the region of the great lakes, the Ohio Valley and the north Atlantic States, but no unseasonably cold weather is indicated for any part of the country east of the Mississippi River during the next two days. Storm warnings are displayed on the north Pacific coast.

Observations at United States Weather Bureau stations taken at 8 P. M. yesterday, seventy-fifth meridian time:

	Temperature High.	Temperature Low.	Wind.	Velocity.	Rain.	W'ther.
Atlantic City	44	40	N.W.	..	.20	Cloudy
Boston	42	36	N.	..	..	Foggy
Jacksonville	64	46	N.W.	14	..	Clear
Chicago	46	34	N.W.	..	..	Cloudy
St. Louis	60	32	S.	10	..	Clear
Denver	54	31	S.E.	..	..	Clear
Bismarck	42	26	E.	10	..	Clear
Charleston	58	48	W.	10	..	Clear
Norfolk	64	..	N.W.	14	..	Clear

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS.

	8 A. M.	8 P. M.
Barometer	29.72	[illegible]
Humidity	81	[illegible]
Wind—direction	N. E.	[illegible]
Wind—velocity	13	14
Weather	Cloudy	Clear
Precipitation	.06	.02

The temperature in this city yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

8 A. M.	41	1 P. M.	43	6 P. M.	41
9 A. M.	42	2 P. M.	41	7 P. M.	[illegible]
10 A. M.	43	3 P. M.	40	8 P. M.	[illegible]
11 A. M.	44	4 P. M.	41	9 P. M.	41
12 M.	43	5 P. M.	41	10 P. M.	39

	1919.	1918.		1919.	1918.
9 A. M.	42	33	6 P. M.	42	[illegible]
12 M.	43	33	9 P. M.	41	27
3 P. M.	40	[illegible]	12 Mid.	39	[illegible]

Highest temperature, 46 at 8:15 A. M.
Lowest temperature, 39 at 2:30 P. M.
Average temperature, 42.

EVENTS TO-DAY.

Dinner in honor of James M. Beck by the American Defence Society and the American Rights League, Waldorf-Astoria, 7 P. M.

Memorial meeting in honor of Theodore Roosevelt under the auspices of the Woman's Roosevelt Memorial Committee at the residence of Mrs. John Henry Hammond, 9 East Ninety-first street, 3 P. M.

Address by Dr. William McAndrew on "The Schools and Americanism," Institutional Synagogue, Mount Morris Theatre, 11 A. M.

Lectures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art—"Story Hour," Anna C. Chandler, 3 P. M.; "Early American Sculpture," Mrs. Herbert Adams, 4 P. M.

Royal J. Davis will speak on "Vicious Virtues and Virtuous Vices," Woodstock Branch New York Public Library, 759 East 160th street, 11 A. M.

Address on "Milk and Markets for 8 [illegible] Million," by Jonathan C. Day, Lenox Avenue Unitarian Church, 121st street and Lenox avenue, 8 P. M.

Travis H. Whitney will speak on "New York's Present Transportation Problem," Free Synagogue, 36 West Sixty-eighth street, 8:15 P. M.

James W. Gerard will speak in the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, under the auspices of the Brooklyn Institute, 4 P. M.

Lecture by Henri, the dancer, on "The Dance and Its Related Arts," 8:15 P. M.

Lecture by Lajpat Rai on "India's Place in World Politics," 3:30 P. M., People's House, 7 East Fifteenth street.

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Cantors Association of America, Temple Rodoph Sholem, Lexington avenue and Sixty-third street, 2 P. M.

Address by Gen. T. Coleman du Pont on "With the American Expeditionary Forces in France" at the New York Society of the New Church, Thirty-fifth street, near Park avenue, 8 P. M.

Address by Isaac F. Russell on "The New Democracy," Brooklyn Philosophical Society, Williamsburg Public Library, 3 P. M.

William H. Edwards, Collector of the Port, will talk on "Team Work" at the Morris High School, 166th street and Boston road, 3:30 P. M.

Lecture by Col. W. A. Bishop on "Air Fighting in Flanders Fields," Lexington Theatre, 8:20 P. M.

Service of thanksgiving for the solidarity of the American people incidental to the anniversary of Robert E. Lee, St. Mark's-in-the-Bouwerie, 4 P. M.

Benefit dance of the People's Playhouse, 7 East Fifteenth street, 8 to 12 P. M.

John Spargo will talk on "Why I Am Opposed to Bolshevism," Public School 14, Glenmore and Stone avenues, Brooklyn, 3 P. M.

Opening of drive for the $[illegible] Palestine Restoration Fund, all day. First annual benefit for the Auxiliary Volunteer Corps of the Fire Department, Hippodrome, 8 P. M.

Discussion by Richard Roberts on "Making Democracy Safe," Central Y. M. C. A., Brooklyn, 3:30 P. M.

Discussion of the "Returned Soldier Problems—His Civic Duties," West Side Y. M. C. A., 8 P. M.

Moissaye J. Olgin will talk on "The Russian Crisis," Cooper Union, 8 P. M.

Annual meeting of the donors, members and subscribers of the Home for Aged and Infirm Hebrews, 105th street, near Columbus avenue, 11 A. M.

Meeting of the New York Drama League, discussion by S. K. Ratcliffe on "The Theatre and the Middle Classes," McDowell Galleries, 8 P. M.

Lecture by Sidney Nevile Ussher, "The Real Japanese," Public Forum, 101 [illegible] street, West of Lexington avenue, 8 P. M.

Concert recital by Emil de Gogorza, first of the season, Aeolian Hall, 2:30 P. M.

Les Amitiés [illegible] and Les Felibres, French societies, victory ball, led by Gaston Liebert, Consul-General of France, Palm Garden, East Fifty-eighth street, 8 P. M.

Novena of thanksgiving for peace, the Rev. T. M. Schwertner officiating, St. Ann's Church, East Twelfth street, 8 P. M.

Charles [illegible] will speak on "The World's Crisis and the Failure of the Intellectuals" to the Secular Society, [illegible] West 125th street, 3:15 P. M.

United Krakauer Charity and Aid Society, victory concert and dance, Hotel Astor, 8:30 P. M.

After Care Home for Children, benefit entertainment, Century Theatre, 8 P. M.

Church of Silent Demand, "How to Provide for the 'I Wants,'" lecture by Theodore G. Northrup, Hotel McAlpin, [illegible] P. M.

International New Thought Alliance, [illegible] on "Personal Problems," Mrs. Mary [illegible] Chapin, Mehlin Hall, 4 East [illegible] street, 10:30 A. M.

Bishop Luther B. Wilson will [illegible] "Yesterday, To-day and To-morrow," James M. E. Church, Madison avenue and 126th street, 8 P. M.

Patriotic service, with flag [illegible] and organ recital, St. George's, Stuyvesant Square, 8 P. M.

"Experiences in Russia Under the Czar, Kerensky and the Bolsheviki," lecture by Jerome Davis, Church of the Ascension, Fifth avenue and Tenth street, 8 P. M.

Trap shooting, New York Athletic Club, Travers Island, 1 P. M.; Rockaway Hunt Yacht Club, Rockaway Park, 1:30 P. M.

FREE LECTURES AND MUSIC.

MANHATTAN.

"The Real Japanese," by Sidney Nevile Ussher, at Public Forum 101, 111th street, west of Lexington avenue, stereopticon views.

BRONX.

Organ recital by Wenzel A. Raboch, Morris High School, 166th street and Boston road, at 3:30 P. M.

Story Books for Soldiers.

Tiny pocket story books, each of thirty-five pages and containing a story by Kipling, Frank M. O'Brien, Montague Glass, Alfred Henry Lewis, Edgar Allan Poe, George Randolph Chester or any of another of twenty authors, are being provided for returning soldiers by the Knights of Columbus. These books are two inches in length by one and a half inches in width. K. of C. secretaries will board every incoming transport to distribute the gifts.